



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor David DIDUCH et al. **Examiner:** Glenn K. DAWSON *B*

Serial No.: 10/084,283 **Confirmation No.** 7097

Filed: February 26, 2002 **Group Art Unit:** 3731

Title: SUPERELASTIC SUTURE PASSING DEVICES AND METHODS *2202*

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 *2261*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application, please amend the claims as follows:

Please add new claims 49-51 as follows.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 49-51 are newly added and read on the elected species IV, as presented in the Restriction Requirement dated 11/3/04 and elected in the simultaneously filed Response to Restriction Requirement. Support for the new claims may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Currently, claims 24-51 are pending in this application.

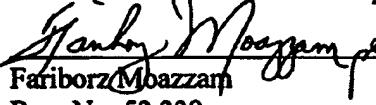
If any fees are associated with the entering and consideration of this preliminary amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account 50-2882.

Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

David DIDUCH et al.

Date: 22 November 2004


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